

**Question 11: Pesticide Law Worksheets**

Reference:

Applying Pesticides Correctly - Private Applicator Supplement  
Unit 5: Laws and Regulations, Page 5-3 and 5-5

**Worker Protection Standard**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) must be complied with when pesticide products are used on agricultural establishments such as farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses for the commercial or research production of agricultural plants. WPS requires employers to provide agricultural workers and pesticide handlers with protections against possible harm from pesticides. Persons who must comply with these instructions include owners/operators of the agricultural establishment and owners/operators of commercial businesses that are hired to apply pesticides on an agricultural establishment or to perform crop advising tasks on such establishments.

**Some of the basic requirements the WPS establishes for employers include:**

- Help employees get medical assistance in case of a work related pesticide emergency.
- Set up decontamination sites for washing pesticide residues off hands and body.
- Comply with restricted entry intervals (REI). A REI is the time after a pesticide application when workers may not enter the treated area without personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Notify workers through posted and/or oral warnings about areas where applications are taking place and areas where a restricted use pesticide (RUP) has been applied.
- Allow only trained and equipped pesticide handlers to be present during a pesticide application.
- Provide PPE for pesticide handlers and for workers who enter pesticide treated areas before expiration of the REI.
- Protect pesticide handlers by giving them safety instructions about the correct use of PPE and mixing, loading, and application equipment; inspecting and maintaining equipment they will be using; and monitoring them in hazardous situations.

Detailed information about WPS is available in the EPA manual "Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How To Comply."